

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: HEALTH SERVICES

DATE: JANUARY 23, 2014

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: OTHERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SOKOL
CONOVER
FRASIER
TAYLOR
MCDEVITT

REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH:
PAT AUER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH/PATIENT SERVICES
SHARON SCHALDONE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOME CARE DIVISION
GINELLE JONES, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
TAMMIE DELORENZO, CLINICAL & FISCAL INFORMATICS COORDINATOR
TAWN DRISCOLL, FISCAL MANAGER
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BROCK
GIRARD
SEEBER
STROUGH
WESTCOTT
WOOD
CHRISTIE SABO, DIRECTOR OF OFFICE FOR THE AGING
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
CHARLENE DiRESTA, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Sokol called the meeting of the Health Services Committee to order at 9:33 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Pat Auer, Director of Public Health/Patient Services, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes*. Ms. Auer invited the Committee members back for the new year and said all of the Supervisors were welcome to tour the Public Health Offices at any time. Copies of the newly created brochure for the Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA) were distributed to the Committee members; *a copy of the brochure is on file with the minutes*.

Commencing the agenda review, Ms. Auer requested to amend the 2014 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$38,383 in order to reflect the receipt of COLA (cost of living adjustment) payments associated with the Lead Program Grant (\$1,797) and the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program Grant (\$36,596).

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2014 County Budget as outlined above and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes*.

Ms. Auer requested authorization for a contract with Ellen Kirker to provide physical therapy services for a term commencing February 24, 2014 and terminating upon 30 days written notice by either party at the rates outlined on the resolution request form. She noted Ms. Kirker had worked at Glens Falls Hospital for many years and added that physical therapy services were reimbursable.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to authorize the contract with Ellen Kirker as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 21, 2014 Board Meeting.*

Ms. Auer requested authorization for a contract with Children's Development Group for Speech, OT (occupational therapy), PT (physical therapy) and Psychological Services, PLLC to provide services to one preschool special needs child from the Town of Hague for a term commencing February 24, 2014 and terminating upon 30 days written notice by either party. She noted the child attended preschool in the Ticonderoga School District and none of the current providers were willing to travel the necessary distance.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to authorize the contract with Children's Development Group for Speech, OT, PT and Psychological Services, PLLC as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 21, 2014 Board Meeting.*

Ms. Auer requested authorization for Sharon Schaldone, Assistant Director of the Home Care Division, and Maureen Linehan, Certified Home Health Nurse, to attend the Home Care Association of New York's Educational Program, *The Art of ICD-10-CM Coding for Home Health*, in Albany on February 6-7, 2014 at a total cost of \$499 per person. She noted the registration deadline had been prior to the Committee meeting and as Chairman of the Health Services Committee, Mr. Sokol had given verbal authorization to submit the registration.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to authorize attendance at the training as outlined above. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer requested to fill the vacant position of WIC Nutrition Aide, annual base salary of \$28,046, Grade 6, Employee No. 10396, due to retirement and to backfill any vacancies resulting from promotion. She noted this position was not mandated but received 100% reimbursement from the State through the WIC Program Grant.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the request to fill the vacant position of WIC Nutrition Aide as outlined above and to forward same to the Personnel Committee. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer requested to amend the 2011-2015 Rabies Plan (adopted by Resolution No. 403 of 2011) to reflect updates in the New York State Department of Health Laws and Rabies Treatment Guidelines. Ginelle Jones, Assistant Director of Public Health Division, reviewed the five major changes to the plan, as follows:

1. Confinement of animals that bit was previously required for 10 days at an animal hospital which was costly to the owners; however, under the amended law, the owners were allowed to confine their pets at home. There were still provisions under the law to allow confinement at animal hospitals for animals deemed to be dangerous;
2. Scratches from paws were no longer considered to be possible exposure to rabies but scratches from teeth and/or bites still would be;
3. Police dogs and working dogs were exempt from the bite law and owners could apply for a waiver to the confinement until the animal's vaccination status was verified;

4. Post exposure treatment guidelines for rabies would now be 4 doses as opposed to 5 doses; although people with compromised immune systems might still require 5 doses; and
5. The Public Health Department was given the authority to approve the post exposure treatment. The procedure had been amended slightly to allow the hospital pharmacy 24 hours to order the treatment if it was not currently in stock.

Ms. Jones advised the amended 2011-2015 Rabies Plan would be sent to the Town Animal Control Officers and would be posted on the website once the resolution was adopted.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to amend the 2011-2015 Rabies Plan as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 21, 2014 Board Meeting.*

Pertaining to the pending item concerning new Certificates of Need for new CHHA's, Ms. Auer pointed out that Attachment #4 consisted of the referrals for 2013 versus 2012. Ms. Scaldone noted an increase of 200 to 300 referrals per year for physical therapy and nursing, which were the two services which could potentially open new cases. She acknowledged the total number of visits per year had decreased in 2013 compared to 2012; however, she pointed out that the cases were paid on a per episode basis versus a per visit basis.

Mr. McDevitt commented that he had recently received three at home physical therapy visits through the CHHA. He said the nurse was excellent and had been very knowledgeable. Ms. Schaldone said the Department had just received their three year New York State Department of Health Survey which had been extensive. She noted the surveyors had spent six days observing the CHHA nurses and had seen ten patients and reviewed twenty records. She mentioned the surveyors had reported very positive feedback about the CHHA from the patients they saw. Ms. Auer commented that Ms. Schaldone and the individual nurses had done a great job with the survey.

Ms. Auer pointed out that a Report on Monthly Emergency Response and Preparedness Activities and a Report on the Rabies Program for October through December 2013 were included in the agenda packet.

Pertaining to the Report on Revenues and Expenditures, Tawn Driscoll, Fiscal Manager, pointed out the numbers shown were for 2013, as the books remained open. She added the revenues did not reflect the December billing for the CHHA, Long Term Care (LTC) and Maternal Child Health (MCH) Programs. She added the last quarter of 2013 for grants and State Aid were also not included in the revenues. She said they were unable to bill for Preschool until the end of the first quarter of 2014. She commented that when the 2013 books were closed, both the revenues and appropriations would be less than the amount budgeted. Ms. Driscoll pointed out an increase in 2013 salaries compared to 2012 of \$66,072.82, which she mostly attributed to a short staff in Nursing. She commented there had also been three employees who retired in 2013 which had not been anticipated. She added of the \$20,339.17 increase in regular salaries in 2013 compared to 2012, approximately \$12,000 was from employee retirement pay outs. A brief discussion ensued.

As there was no further business to come before the Health Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. Conover and seconded by Mrs. Frasier, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist